

Briefly describe your early experiences with science and/or technology.

I had always enjoyed science and math in school. As early as I can remember I was conducting experiments at home and at school. Math was interesting because you could solve problems and everything always worked out. From math and science, I started to move into technology through computer programming and creating Boolean Devices. These early experiences helped me to appreciate technology while enjoying my career.

When did you know you wanted to be an engineer/scientist? How old were you?

I knew I wanted to be an engineer when I was 14 years old and had just won a science/engineering contest. I was very thrilled at all the prospects and different areas of engineering. I didn't decide that I wanted to be an Electrical Engineer until my first year of college. The Virginia Tech Engineering Program's first year was designed to give me a sampling of all engineering fields to help me decide which discipline I wanted to enter.

Did your family and/or teachers provide encouragement? If so, how?

Yes - both – I have always been told that I could do whatever and be whoever I wanted to be, no matter what. This helped me get through difficult times when I was told that I couldn't accomplish something or started to lose confidence in completing the task at hand. In addition they encouraged me at a young age to explore science and technology once they realized that I enjoyed it.

Have you had a mentor at any time during your career or life? What role did s/he play?

I have had multiple mentors throughout my career and life. They have been different people for different times and areas of my life and career. They have been great sounding boards for ideas, confidants when needed, and always willing to share their experiences with me so I could learn from them.